

Dragon Newsletter December 2009



CPT Mabardy and SFC Cruce Case the Rear Detachment Colors

Cover Story

REAR DETACHMENT STANDS DOWN AND SOLDIERS ARE AWARDED.

On 10 December 2009, 1-63 CAB conducted a ceremony at Craig Gym in order to promote 2LT Timothy Mussack to 1LT and to honor those members of the Battalion that served on Rear Detachment during its yearlong deployment to Iraq. The ceremony was closed with the casing of the rear detachments colors symbolizing the end of their successful mission in support of the deployed members of the Battalion.

The ceremony kicked off with the promotion of 2LT Timothy Mussack to 1LT. 1LT Mussack joined the Battalion while in Iraq and became a valuable member of Delta Company. In the near future, 1LT Mussack will be entrusted with a Rifle Platoon, an undertaking in which he is expected to excel. 1LT Mussack is married to Brandi Mussack, and as with any married officer that is promoted, his wife was promoted to the next higher rank of Captain. This symbolizes the hard work that all military wives perform in support of their husband and serves a reminder to the newly promoted officer to always consult their wife on important matters.



LTC Bradford Promotes 1LT Mussack



LTC Bradford Awards Rear Detachment

Several key individuals from the Battalions Rear Detachment were awarded for their dedicated work on the home front. SFC Cruce, SSG Chapman, SSG Hall, we awarded the Army Accommodation Medal. SFC Hill, SGT Nicholson, SGT Pearson, SGT Petoskey, SGT Rozell were awarded the Army Achievement Medal. The work of these individuals helped ensure that everything was taken care of back home allowing our deployed Soldiers to focus on the task at hand.

Following the awards, the colors for the Rear Detachment were cased by the Rear D Commander, CPT Mabardy, and NCOIC SFC Cruce. The act of casing the colors symbolizes that the mission for the Rear Detachment has been successfully completed. However, BN Commander LTC Bradford reminded everyone that a new deployment is on the horizon and the Rear Detachment colors would not be cased for long.

CPT Wade Sarraf

Spouses Coffee

The Army Spouses Coffee is a custom that dates back to the Army's earliest history, and occurs at all levels from the Battalion on up. Traditionally Coffees were much more formal then their contemporary counterparts. Today these events give the spouses of 1-63 CAB Soldiers the opportunity to meet, socialize, share information and enjoy refreshments prepared by the hostess, all in a comfortable and informal environment.

The Holiday Spouses Coffee is usually hosted by the Commanders Spouse, in this case Daniele Bradford and Heidi Lehr shared the duties of hostess. The evening started off as spouses socialized and enjoyed the refreshments until all were present for the formal part of the meeting.

The first segment was similar to a hail and farewell ceremony. The group Hailed Melissa Celeen, Sarah Chapman, Jacquelyn Abbott, Shannon Holman, Tanya Van Royan, Fabienne Benton, and Imelda Stout. All spouses - including those unable to attend - who would soon be leaving the group were given a farewell. This included, Judy Herring, Denise Ott, Tori Culbertson, Melissa Mabardy, Ryan Johnson, Amber Wendell, Sarah Bowe, Callie Kostelich, Maggie Boyle, Brenda Hall, Tonya Otwell, Jessica Roush, Jessica Smith, Angela Sterret, Lizza Vazquez, and Abby Suddarth.



Spouses enjoy refreshments prepared by the hostesses, Daniele Bradford, and Heidi Lehr



The “prize of chance” bucket is passed around by Heidi Lehr

The hail and farewell portion was followed up by an updating of contact rosters while Daniele Bradford disseminated information pertinent to the other spouses, such as FRG functions and Battalion Training Calendars. The upcoming Marriage Retreat was brought up and one of the ladies said “I think the Chaplain will enjoy another perspective on these things now that he is married!” The remark was followed by laughter as another staple of the Spouses Coffee events was passed around the table... “prize of chance” bucket, extremely similar to a raffle (but not a raffle because that would be wrong). The Coffee is not a fundraising organization like an FRG but it does require some funds for hail and farewell gifts among other things, the “prize of chance” bucket provides these funds.

The highlight of the night was the ornament swapping. Each spouse was asked to bring in a holiday ornament. These ornaments were disturbed as the spouses continued to socialize and enjoy refreshments. The Coffee is held at a different spouse’s house each month and is a good tradition that ties the 1-63 CAB family closer together.

CPT Wade Sarraf



Spouses socialize and review New Years Reception advice from the Army Wife Handbook”

Commanders Corner

Soldiers, Families and Friends of 1-63 CAB,

The first 3 months of our redeployment has been a time for our Soldiers to take a hard earned respite from the rigorous 12 month deployment in support of combat operations in Iraq. Recently, the 1-63 Battalion Ball gave the unit an opportunity to collectively celebrate our successful deployment and give thanks for the safe return of our Soldiers. We have held several Hail and Farewell events to recognize leaders who changed positions in Iraq, leaders and families getting ready to move on to their next duty station following the stabilization period, and welcome incoming leaders and their families into the organization which they will soon hold important roles.



Our Soldiers and the Battalion as a whole have taken time to reconnect with the community and our families. There are several FRG Christmas Parties planned for the month of December in addition to the regularly scheduled meetings. Soldiers have been given more time off, specifically to reconnect with their families and to adjust to the sudden change of pace from the combat environment to the garrison environment. Additionally Soldiers have been given opportunities to participate in Army sponsored programs to help them manage the stress resulting from the change of pace. One such program is Warrior Adventure Quest Lite sponsored by the BOSS program. This program allows Soldiers to participate in adventurous activities such as paintball and mountain climbing as a positive outlet for the energy Soldiers were accustomed to expending on a daily basis during deployment.

Although this is a time of celebration and recovery 1-63 CAB has not forgotten about our brothers who will soon deploy overseas, as such, our contribution to the Army's mission overseas has not ceased. Leadership from the 1-63 CAB has attended several functions at renowned Army and civilian agencies to include Kansas State University, West Point in New York, and the Pre-Command Course in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas to share lessons learned from our deployment. The knowledge imparted to our deploying brothers will prepare them for the rigors that await them overseas.

As the Soldiers rest and recover, the Battalion's leadership has been hard at work planning and resourcing solid and well thought out training for the coming months. The conflict in which our great country is involved is an endurance event, we have not forgotten that this time of celebration and rest following our deployment is fleeting. In the coming months 1-63 CAB will embark on the initial stages of our train up for the time when inevitably our country will again call on the men of 1-63 CAB to deploy overseas in support of the Global War on Terrorism. The goal of the initial stage of training is for our Soldiers to become experts on the individual tasks which I consider to be the fundamental building

blocks of any great organization. The upcoming days of rigorous training spent on the bitterly cold and windswept weapons ranges and training areas of Fort Riley will pay off as our Soldiers emerge in the spring as experts in their Warrior Skills. Our Soldiers will be ready to embark on the more complex collective tasks, training for and success at a National Training Center rotation, and eventual deployment overseas as one of the most disciplined and well trained units in this country's Armed Forces.

A Note from the CSM

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE DRAGONS!

With the first block leave period complete, and the second major block leave rapidly approaching, take a minute to sit back, relax, and look back on an eventful year which has brought the Dragon's thousands of miles home from a remote country – to be with our fine Families and Friends. What a blessing to be home!

At this time of year, I'd like to remind everyone to keep safety at the forefront of our daily tasks. With the holiday season comes bad weather, unusually long road trips, and the stresses and strains that accompany such a busy season. Please look out for each other, and plan a little extra time into your schedule. It's better to arrive early, than not arrive.



Thank you to all the Families that have made this battalion's FRG the most vibrant I've seen in 25 years. You are all fantastic, and need to pat yourselves on the back for a job well done.

Merry Christmas, and a blessed New-Year

Dragon-7

CSM Lance Lehr

Chaplains Voice

DRAGON NEWSLETTER ARTICLE- DECEMBER 2009

Even though the Dragon Battalion has been home from deployment two months, it has been a wild ride of adjusting to life in the US. Reunion, block leave, classes, Reverse SRP, people coming and going, bills, chores, etc. All of this is making the days fly by. This is the holiday season for spending time with family and to relive the traditions unique to us as Americans- including great food, cheering for our favorite football team while watching the game on a big screen TV, taking pictures, telling stories, and playing with the kids. In November, we took time to celebrate Thanksgiving. This Thanksgiving is especially sweet to be home and safe from the dangers presented in Iraq. As my mother was squeezing me so tight in a hug on that day, I realized afresh how difficult it is for our families when we are on the other side of the planet in harm's way. There are things in this life words fail to convey, though we hear the message and know it to be true. Then something simple happens that puts a finger on our heart, and it stops us in our tracks. This is not the first time my mother has had this affect on me, but it always happens when I did not expect it. I hope many, if not all of you, have had the same experience to remind you that you are loved and it is good to be home.

As I am typing this article, it is snowing and various non-essential operations on FRKS are shutting down ahead of a growing storm. As people leave for the comforts of home, my prayer is that Soldiers and families are adjusting to the changes after deployment. More importantly, we are moving closer to the ones we love. This is not a prayer for things to change overnight, but toward a better future that can take weeks, if not months, before the outlook for better weather at home will grow brighter. As temperatures outside become frigid, I encourage all who read these words to intentionally stoke the home fires with laughter, start or continue family traditions to mark the holiday season, and invite in those who are far from places familiar. For those who were separated from family and friends at Thanksgiving, I pray you will join them for the Christmas block leave.

Thanksgiving was marked by the death of a young Soldier in the Dragon Battalion, PFC Gregory Tilton of Bravo Company. His untimely passing is mourned by all who knew Greg, near and distant, and he will be dearly missed. December 4, 2009, a memorial ceremony was performed at Morris Hill Chapel with full military honors. This solemn occasion was our offering of condolence to the family and time to say our goodbyes a good buddy. Please keep PFC Tilton's wife, Molly, and their families in your thoughts and prayers through this difficult season in their lives.

I end this article on two personal notes. The picture included with this article is very significant because it was taken on the happiest day of my life. On November 27, 2009, Sarah Hover became my wife and my life forever changed for the better. Ours was a beautiful wedding before our family and friends in our hometown of Decorah, Iowa. I hope each and every one of you will get to meet her and welcome her to the battalion. She is so much better than all those who came before her! And her cooking is so good! The other note is hard to miss as a chaplain and a minister of the Gospel. The reason for Christmas is not a thing with wrapping paper and a pretty bow or a lighted tree. The holiday

is to remember the one most unique person in history came from the highest of glory to the most meager of circumstances at the most unlikely of times to become one of us. The story of a baby being born in a stable in an occupied country to a teenage girl deserves our attention and reflection, again. Speak to the lengths Almighty God will go to meet us where we are.

Merry Christmas and have a blessed New Year.

CH(CPT) David Chapman

Dragon Cross



Chaplain Chapman and his new wife Sarah

Alpha Company News

ALPHA COMPANY RETURNS

November has been a month to relax and get back into the regular Army schedule after a yearlong deployment. During the deployment your Soldiers did fantastic work that contributed directly to the security and stabilization of Iraq. The time off your families are enjoying is well earned and it is our intention to maximize the amount of time you and your Soldier have together. During November Alpha Company also resumed normal PT and work days as we resumed garrison operations.

The Christmas session is rapidly approaching. This is an exciting time for families especially since a majority of Alpha Company was forward deployed last Christmas. For many Soldiers it will be their first Christmas with new children. Block Leave is scheduled 18DEC – 04JAN to encompass the Christmas Holiday and New Year's celebration.

Company operations have focused on PT and accounting for Company equipment. Soldiers are taking this opportunity to shed a few of the pounds they may have gained since arriving home to home cooked meals and prepare for future training events. I'm certain that families remember how much stuff their Soldier had to pack before we deployed. We are currently in the process of accounting not only for your Soldier's individual equipment but Company equipment as well. The Non-commissioned officers and the Company Executive Officer have done a superb job and we have had no property issues to date. You can expect more administrative tasks and physical training to occur in December; however your Soldier will not be going to the field until mid January.

A large number of people will be leaving Alpha Company in the coming months. It is sad to see familiar faces leave Alpha Company but all are on their way to bigger and better things. We are already receiving new Soldiers and integrating them into the Alpha Company culture. Your Soldier made a positive impact on the Company that will contribute to our future success, even in their absence.

By 1LT Jason Mittnight

XO A/1-63 CAB



LTC Bradford converses with CPT Evans, and 1SG Nunwieller

Bravo Company News

SOLDIERS RETURNING FROM DEPLOYMENT ENJOY NATURE'S FRUITS

While serving their country in Iraq, the Soldiers of Bravo Company were unable to participate in many of their favorite outdoor activities. For many of them, November 18th marked the beginning of their favorite American past-time: hunting and trapping seasons. Although it's been an entire year since these Soldiers have been able to trap or hunt, many have not lost their touch in being able to find the game. Bow and Shotgun hunters were out all weekend long attempting to catch their first deer or turkey of the season.



SSG Wine holds up his first deer of the season, a two year old Spike Buck

SSG Wine was able to find his first deer of the season while hunting in the Fort Riley Area. The deer was a Spike Buck, meaning it was only a year or two old. "The deer was my first that I was able to take down with a bow; it took me only 30 minutes in the stand to get it. Fort Riley provides great opportunities for hunting and other recreational activities," said SSG Wine. SSG Wine wanted hunters to know that, "Range 4 is available for soldiers to take their personally owned firearms and zero them for free. Soldiers just need to bring their registration for their weapon. People can also Skeet Shoot at the range on Saturday's from 1200-1700."

The Fort Riley Area is well known for its abundance of turkey and many hunters were out looking for their Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinner. SPC Strickland was able to snag a Hen with his 12-Gauge while hunting nearby. "It took me three days to finally shoot one; I thought the opening weekend was going to be a bust." SGT Manana, on the other hand, had no luck while attempting to locate his first turkey. "I followed the trails all day, but could not find anything to shoot, but I'll be out next weekend and hopefully I'll have better luck" said SGT Manana.

Trapping Season for all fur bearing animals also opened up on the 18th of November. Bravo Company's experts in this field, SSG Barnhart and SSG Davis set up traps on Thursday and Friday to trap their target animals. SSG Barnhart set up four traps in Geary County to trap Beaver, netting him two catches. The first catch was a whopping 53 lbs and the second catch was 40 lbs. "Trapping is a good way to get outdoors to learn about wildlife management and conservation. It is an ethical and key way to control the carrying capacity of the land. It helps that it's just plain fun as well," said SSG Barnhart. SSG Davis was unable to catch any animals with his traps, but was quick to say that he would not be giving up anytime soon.

All Soldiers need to be aware that Kansas and Fort Riley require licenses to hunt, trap, or fish anywhere in the state. Soldiers also need to take the necessary safety precautions when hunting or doing any outside activity in the winter.



SSG Barnhart holds up his prize catch, a 53-Pound Beaver.

Charlie Company News

COBRAS BID FAREWELL TO 1ST SERGEANT CURTIS FULLER

In early December, 1st Sergeant Curtis Fuller will retire after 22 years of service in the U.S. Army. He has spent the last three years as the 1st Sergeant of Charlie Company, training and preparing Soldiers for tank gunnery, field problems, NTC, and deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom. His career encompasses three decades, and he has specialized in every facet of warfare from Cold War defense tactics to Counter Insurgency Operations. He has sat in every crew position possible on the M1A1 tank, spent time working to develop modern armored vehicles, instructed future Army officers, but most importantly, he has cared for his Soldiers and their families for the entire span of his career.



CPT Harris, Charlie Company Commander

1st Sergeant Fuller enlisted in the U.S. Army in the delayed entry program in November 1986. He began his career on July 28th, 1987 as a 17 year old private assigned to B / 1-81 at Fort Knox, KY, back when “drill sergeants were not kind and gentle,” 1SG Fuller recalled. For three months, PVT Fuller learned the M1A1 tank inside and out, spending a small amount of time in the driver’s simulator but most of his time in the field, learning weapons and PMCS and conducting field training and live fires. After graduating from basic training, PVT Fuller was assigned to B / 1-35 in Erlangen, Germany as a M1A1 tank driver and loader. While stationed in Germany, besides participating in the usual gunneries and field training, PVT Fuller’s unit patrolled along the East German border, with a mission was to ensure the security of Western Germany. PVT Fuller’s Company patrolled with their tanks fully loaded with live ammunition, talked on ancient voice-security radio systems, and used code words for all call signs and actions of the battlefield. 1st Sergeant Fuller compared the training for border duty as the equivalent to training for an NTC rotation today, building up all year with gunneries and field problems. They were there in case the “Russians came pouring over the border,” as 1st Sergeant Fuller describes it. 1st Sergeant Fuller left Germany as a Specialist in 1989.

SPC Fuller was then assigned to the 194th Armor Brigade at Fort Knox, KY as an M1A1 gunner from 1989 to 1992. As the Platoon Sergeant’s gunner, SPC Fuller was responsible for his crew of two Soldiers and the three Soldiers on his PSG’s wingman tank. Every year SPC Fuller’s unit was tasked with training West Point cadets on the M1A1, and were responsible for ranges and crew-served weapons classes as well. SPC Fuller completed PLDC and BNCOC while at Fort Knox and left Fort Knox after being promoted to Sergeant. From Fort Knox, SGT Fuller moved to Germany where he was assigned to D 1-4 IN as OPFOR on Hohenfels, Germany from 1992 to 1995. SGT Fuller spent months in the field fighting in a six tank platoon against multi-national forces, including the British, German, and French armies, most of who were in training for deployments to Bosnia or just brushing up on Cold War era tactics. This OPFOR fight was in addition to typical tank gunnery and field problems. From Germany, SGT Fuller moved to Fort Riley, KS and was promoted to Staff Sergeant. He was assigned to 1-13 AR as a Tank Commander from 1995 to 1999. As a Tank Commander the Platoon Sergeant’s wingman, SSG Fuller again executed tank gunneries, field problems, and NTC. As a Section Sergeant he oversaw his crew and his Platoon Sergeant’s crew.

Charlie Company News Con't

In 1999 SSG Fuller moved to G 1-16 CAV at Fort Knox, KY, where he was promoted to Sergeant 1st Class and made an instructor for the Tank Commander Certification Course for the M1A2 SEP tank. He also was assigned as the Troop Master Gunner. Sept 11 – middle of course sent all students home, cancelled the course. Sergeant 1st Class Fuller conducted the platform performance demonstration which selected the vehicle that would eventually become the Stryker. He ran a CALFEX, a huge live fire demonstration for West Point cadets, which included live fire with dismounts and engineer support. Sergeant 1st Class Fuller, as a Troop Master Gunner, coordinated the entire event, along with running Troop gunneries, course gunneries for student, live fires, and took care of the administration surrounding each event. He was responsible for 12 instructors and supported his own course, managed his own vehicles, and assigned all instructors and Soldiers to support each event.

In 2003, Sergeant 1st Class Fuller moved to Fort Riley, assigned to A / 1-34 AR and became a Platoon Sergeant. His unit deployed to Habaniya, Iraq between Fallujah and Ramadhi, along RTE Michigan. 1st Sergeant Fuller describes his mission responsibilities as “Getting shot at, killing people, and also some QRF and route security missions.” Unlike the technological advantages for U.S. forces in Iraq today, Sergeant 1st Class Fuller’s Platoon used handheld Garmin GPS’, maps, and radios, and did not have air conditioning in their tanks. After his deployment Sergeant First Class returned to Fort Riley and after a short time as a Team NCOIC, he was moved to C / 2-70 AR and became the Company First Sergeant.

1SG Fuller spent the final years of his lengthy Army career as the Company First Sergeant for Charlie Company, 1-63rd CAB at Fort Riley, KS, beginning in March 2007. He executed training for his three Platoons of Soldiers at NTC at Fort Irwin, ensured his tankers maintained their skills at M1A1 gunnery, and conducted preparation for deployment, not only for his Soldiers but for their families as well. First Sergeant Fuller inspected and oversaw every Platoon operation during the year-long deployment, and personally ensured that every Soldier in Charlie Company was well-trained and protected from every threat faced by the Company in Mahmudiyah, Baghdad, and Abu Ghurayb.

1st Sergeant Fuller will retire in December and move with his family to Missouri. He will spend time with his family and seek a future career as a contractor or working as a DoD employee. Every Soldier, NCO, and Officer in Charlie Company 1-63rd CAB thanks 1SG Fuller for his dedication to his Soldiers and junior leaders, his unwavering commitment to the success of his company during training and deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom, but most of all for his hard standards that kept his Soldiers alive and on-track for the past three years. 1st Sergeant Fuller, we thank you and wish you the best in your future endeavors!

Strike Fast!

1LT Jonathan D. Steiber
XO, C/1-63 CAB

Delta Company News

DEATH DEALERS RETURN HOME; ENJOY TIME OFF AND CHANGE OF PACE

It's been over a month now since all of Delta Company has returned home from a year of combat in Iraq. It was a year in which the Company did amazing work, protecting the people of Iraq, and further solidified its reputation as a first rate combat organization. Now the priorities have shifted, as we transition back into garrison life. I wanted to take some time to spell out what we can all expect over the next few months.



Delta Company at Rear Detachment Casing Ceremony

In the coming weeks Soldiers of Dealer Company will have a chance to take up to 35 days of leave prior to returning to work on 4 January. For many of the Soldiers and families of Dealer Company, these 35 days are exactly what they need. "I am looking forward to relaxing and enjoying time with my friends and family- away from Iraq," stated SGT Ryan Cross, Company Armorer. SGT Cross is not alone in his excitement about the much deserved time off. Soldiers from the Company have traveled as far away as Belize, England, and parts of the Caribbean, as they enjoy some time away from work.

The Company is also able to place more emphasis on physical training (PT). In the coming weeks, Soldiers of Delta Company will be working out more regularly, often running in the morning, and lifting weights in the afternoon. "Now that we are not in combat, we are able to focus more on PT,

which I have enjoyed greatly. My platoon and I are getting in better shape together, especially when we do two-a-days,” stated 2LT Tim Mussack, Platoon Leader, 2nd Platoon.

Dealer Company can also expect a large exodus of personnel in the coming weeks. Dozens of Soldiers, at all levels will be leaving both Delta Company, and Ft. Riley, as the Army moves the latest experienced combat veterans into new and different locations to best support the Army’s involvement on the Global War on Terror. We can also expect new members of the Dealer Family to start arriving at the same time. In order to say our proper goodbyes, and welcome our newest Soldiers, Dealer Company will hold a Company Party on December 3rd. During this time we will take the opportunity to honor and thank all Dealer Soldiers, for the service, and welcome our newest members, as we celebrate the holiday season together. As an added treat, due to the Company’s 100% commitment to the CFC program, we will all take the next day off.

It is a turbulent, exciting time in the Company. Everyone is excited to be home, proud of their accomplishment, and given the opportunity to celebrate the two with more time off to be with their families. The coming weeks should be a very positive experience for all Dealer Soldiers and their families.

By CPT Jake L Turner

Commander D /1-63 CAB



1LT Thompson Congratulates, 1LT Mussack, and Wife on Promotion

Echo Company News

EAGLES BEGIN TRANSITION INTO THE NEW YEAR

As the exuberance of returning home from the latest rotation in Iraq dies down, Echo Company, 1-63 CAB is looking forward to a new year with new goals and new leadership. Over 40% of Echo Company is scheduled to PCS either in the January or February time frame. New Soldiers will be coming in ready to tackle the new challenges and training.

“We were incredibly successful in Iraq,” CPT Hector Vazquez said. “The Soldiers that deployed with us should be proud of what they accomplished. Those Soldiers leaving the Company should take everything they learned with them to their new destination and continue their hard work, and those staying here will continue the Echo legacy.”

A new Company Commander and new First Sergeant will be leading the Eagles into the new year as well. After 30 months, CPT Vazquez will PCS to Fort Lee, Virginia in December. He will be replaced by CPT Jason Bost, who was a 2nd Lieutenant in Echo Company when the unit first stood up in 2007. CPT Bost was a Lieutenant in Echo Company for over two years before he moved to the Battalion and was named the 1-63 CAB S4 OIC.

1SG William Parker will retire in December after serving his country for 22 years. 1SG Timothy Van Royen replaced 1SG Parker at a Change of Responsibility ceremony on November 18th at King Field House. 1SG Van Royen also was with Echo Company in 2007 before working at 299th BSB in 2008 and 2009. Both his and CPT Bost’s leadership and prior knowledge of the Company’s operations will surely be instrumental in Echo’s success as the Company closes out 2009 and starts anew in 2010.

Echo Company’s main areas of focus during the months of November and December are property accountability, military training, and safety during the holidays. As containers arrive to Fort Riley, equipment will be accounted for by all sections and the motorpool will once again begin be buzzing with Echo’s Soldiers.

Classes such as Ammo Handler, Bus Driver, Field Sanitation, Combat Life Saver, and others will begin in December and continue into 2010 as Echo resets its roster. All classes will be important for the training missions and ranges that will begin in January and February, and continue throughout the year.

Finally, all of the leadership in Echo would like to wish the spouses, family, and friends of Echo Company and 1-63 CAB a very happy and safe holiday season. We hope that all of the Soldiers enjoy their time during the Thanksgiving weekend as well as the Christmas block-leave period.

By 1LT Christopher Gregg



Echo Company Commander CPT Jason Bost

HHC News

HELLHOUNDS

The Hellhounds are back on Fort Riley after a long year absence from our friends and family. We were received home with open arms and cheers of joy from our FRG members. Our re-integration home was made into an efficient and enjoyable experience thanks to the efforts of our Battalion Rear Detachment Company and FRG. Our guys had made beds in the barracks and freshly made food to eat as soon as they arrived back on post. HHC would like to thank all those who took part in supporting us while we were gone and during our redeployment. Your efforts were greatly appreciated by all.

Our re-integration has been going smoothly. The Hellhound Company has fallen on the same foot print we had before our departure. While this makes our orientation on post a simple process of simply remembering the street names and which way to go on the one way streets, I do believe it has made PT somewhat less enjoyable. We are back to running our same routes on "the Hill" and fighting the 0630-0730 traffic lock down. While some of us may have felt that we changed over deployment and our families grown older, it is clear that Fort Riley has not.

Our Company is currently awaiting the arrival of our supplies and the rest of our luggage. We will be receiving our equipment from Iraq over Thanksgiving leave. It may seem difficult to believe, with all the junk and uniforms we have thrown all over the house and barracks at the current moment, that there could be any more bags to come home, but there is, so clear some space.

We will also be experiencing some drastic changes to the Hellhound Family. Many of us are leaving the Fort Riley area to either report to our newly assigned positions or to say goodbye to the Army for good. It will be sad to see some of our friends go and we wish them the best in whatever adventure they take on next. HHC will also be receiving many new members. There are several new Soldiers, NCOs, and officers arriving to the company. Some have been working on the Rear Detachment Company because they came late during our deployment, some have been either working at different posts or assigned to our brigade and are being placed down into the companies, and there are some who are brand new Soldiers and Officers straight from training.

We are looking forward to establishing our company with so many personnel changes to come, and looking forward to getting back to a somewhat more reliable schedule of training. The garrison life has its ups and downs, but no matter how bad it may seem at times, at least we are at home with our loved ones.

By,

1LT Trevor Lumadue

XO, HHC 1-63 CAB



FRSA

My name is Mimi Woodworth. I would like to take the time to briefly introduce myself and, to say how honored I am to be working with 1-63 CAB. A little history about myself, my Family and I reside in Chapman Kansas. We are originally from New York. No I don't miss the big city life at all. I am a former military spouse. My husband retired in 2002 after serving 20 yrs in an FSB. I have 2 sons; Kyle 21 and is in the Marines and Tyler 18 going on forty.

The Army system has changed quite a bit since my husband's retirement. I have dated myself with old acronyms more than once. As an FRSA I work directly for the Commander or RDC (during deployment). My main objective is to provide the Commander/RDC, Family Readiness Liaison (FRL), and FRG Leader with administrative assistance in support of family Readiness programs and activities. If you have a questions about services on post please feel free to contact me. E-mail mimi.woodworth@us.army.mil or phone 785-240-4529.

Here's some up-coming classes to become involve in YOUR FRG.

Family Readiness Group (FRG) Leader Class.

Part 1

Jan. 11 times 9-12pm

Feb. 8 time 6-9pm

Part 2

Jan. 12 time 9-12pm

Feb.9 time 6-9pm

Key caller class

Jan.21 time 9:30-12noon

Feb. 18 time 6-8:30pm

If you would like to attend any of these classes please contact Mimi Woodworth @ 785-240-4529 Or e-mail mimi.woodworth@us.army.mil .

*All classes take place at the ACS building childcare is provided.

Promotions

Congratulations to the following Dragon Soldiers for their recent promotion!

To Captain

CPT EDWARD MARSH

CPT JASON BOST

To Sergeant First Class

SFC JASON HILL

SFC JASON HAGER

To Staff Sergeant

SSG STEVEN L. WITMAN

SSG BRYAN K. BOWKER

To Sergeant

SGT CASEY L. STEVENS

SGT MATTHEW T. BRAY

SGT IAN L. FAILING

SGT MICHAEL R. GOEDE

SGT ANTHONY D. LOCKE

SGT EMILIO S. MATA

SGT JOSEPH S. NELSON

SGT JONATHAN M. LONG

SGT JEFFREY B. SALVATORE

SGT CHRISTOPHER MARTINEZ

Re-enlistments

October Reenlistments

SSG Taliaferro Alexander - HHC
SGT Reginald Mason - HHC

November Reenlistments

SSG Sean Sweeney - B Co
SPC Matthew Straub - B Co
SGT Nicholas Singleton - HHC
SGT Jonathan Long - E Co
SGT Billy Harper - E Co
SPC John Bader - E Co
SGT Donny Difatta - E Co
SGT Christopher Stillwell - Rear D
SGT Timothy Delaney - D Co
SGT Robert Lopez - C Co
SGT William Diederich - C Co
SPC Chase Sculthorpe - E Co
SGT Jonathan Jones - E Co
SGT Randy McNeill - E Co

December Reenlistments

SGT Stephen Steele - HHC
SGT John Burnham - E Co
SGT Ronald Davis - D Co

Dragon Coffee Mug

\$5.00



Dragon Store Items

Sweatshirt-\$20.00

T-Shirt-\$15.00

Hat-\$12.00



Dragon Sweatshirt \$20.00

Dragon Hat \$12.00



Dragon T-shirt

\$15.00

